The book Stones is a fictional chapter book written by William Bell. So far, the book is about high school student Garnet Havelock who knew that he loved the new student, Raphaella the moment he saw her. Another thing that happened was Garnet was out delivering some furniture since his family owns an antique shop. While he was driving, a snow storm began and the van he was driving got stuck in snow so he decided to walk to a nearby abandoned church where he spent the night. The next day, a plow pulled the van out and he was able to return home. A few weeks after the blizzard, Raphaella came by the shop without Garnet knowing, which surprised him. However, it was a good thing because they were able to have a good conversation with each other.

My purpose for reading this text was to practice using the EXPLORE organizer which teaches and helps me to organize my thoughts, ideas and jot notes. I chose to read this book because it has both of the genres I enjoy reading most in one! From reading the back cover of the book, I learned that the book has some aspects of romance and even some mystery and suspense. These are all genres I’m interested in. So far, I think the author’s purpose for creating this text is to show the reader that love at first really does exist. This is because from what I’ve read so far, that was pretty much all the author talked about.

Some names I thought were worth remembering were Garnet Havelock and Raphaella. This is because Garnet and Raphaella were mentioned quite a lot, which probably means that they are main characters. Also because in the chunk of the book that I read, they talked a lot about the two of them and the attraction Garnet had towards her. Another name I thought was worth remembering was Mr. Paulsen. I think his name is important as well because he’s Raphaella’s and Garnet’s English teacher. His name will probably appear in the book a couple more times. While reading the book, there was one line that really stood out to me, and that was “Even before she finished talking, I had fallen in love with her.” He never thought that love at first sight would ever happen to him and right before he knew it, it did. This took place in their English class when they were having a class discussion about Romeo and Juliet. There weren’t any words that stood out to me, but I did find a phrase that I thought was important and that was, “love at first sight.” This is because even though he didn’t believe in it at all, he still somehow fell in love with Raphaella before they even said a word to each other. Some places I think are worth remembering are the church and Garnet’s family’s antique shop called the Olde Gold Antiques and Collectables. The church is important in the section I read because that’s where Garnet went during the snow storm to try and stay warm. Maybe the church is the small building on the cover of the book and has something to do with the mystery of their community, which I read about on the back. The antique shop is important simply because Garnet’s family owns it.

I think organizational features are important to a text; they allow the reader to understand the text a lot better and help them follow it more easily. The novel Stones was in chapters, which broke the book down into small sections. It made it easier for the reader to focus on one scene or part of the book at a time. Having chapters is way better than not having them because if they didn’t, it would probably get the reader quite confused, so the chapters are definitely helpful. But there was a negative about the chapters, because they didn’t have a title. I think it would have been more helpful if it did, because titles allow the reader to think about what will happen next in the book. It also helps the reader make predictions because the titles tell us what we’re going to be reading about. There were numbers dividing the different topics/sections in a chapter. This helps the reader not get confused with what’s happening in the chapter, because once you see a number, you know the author is going to move on from the topic. While flipping through the book, I noticed that the novel is broken down into three parts. I’m guessing it divides the book into the beginning, middle and end. However, I’m not quite sure because I haven’t gotten to it yet.

I was able to relate to the part when Garnet got stuck in the snow storm. It reminded me of the time when my family and I went on a trip to the Philippines in 2004. When we got to Hong Kong, we found out that our flight got delayed due to a huge rain storm that was happening in the Philippines, and it was raining very hard in Hong Kong as well. Because of this, we had to stay in a hotel which was in the Hong Kong airport. Thankfully we were able to leave the next day, and although we arrived a day late in the Philippines, I wouldn’t have had it any other way because it was a great and unexpected experience.

Once I finished reading, I was left with some questions. One of them was what will happen between Garnet and Raphaella further in the book? I think that maybe Raphaella will start to like Garnet as well, and that they will spend more time together. I’m just really curious to see how they’ll end up further along in the book. Another question I had was, why didn’t Raphaella tell Garnet anything about herself even though he told her many things about himself? When they were at Garnet’s family’s antique shop, they went to the workshop in the back of the building and had some refreshments. He told her about the antique shop and a little about his past yet she didn’t say one thing about herself, and I was just wondering why. While reading the text, I came upon an ah-ha moment. I realized how Garnet really felt about Raphaella. He didn’t believe in love at first sight at all, yet when his class had a debate about true love and Raphaella began to talk, something about her made Garnet fall in love. I was able to connect to what I was reading as well. When they talked about how Garnet’s family owns an antique shop, it reminded me of my mom because when I was younger, she used to buy and collect a lot of figurines which she placed around the house.